

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Commissioner:
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 27 February 2001 (27.02.01)	Applicant's or agent's file reference 0099327-wsgs
International application No. PCT/EP00/06187	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 July 1999 (13.07.99)
International filing date (day/month/year) 03 July 2000 (03.07.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 July 1999 (13.07.99)
Applicant DÜCKER, Klaus et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

13 January 2001 (13.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<p style="text-align: center;">The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Mafla</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0099327-wsgs	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 00/ 06187	International filing date (day/month/year) 03/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 13/07/1999
Applicant MERCK PATENT GMBH et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.
☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☒ contained in the international application in written form.

☒ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTOR AND DNA SEQUENCES THEREOF

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 00/06187

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C12N15/12 C12N15/62 C07K14/72 C07K19/00 C07K16/28
G01N33/566

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12N C07K G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 00 23588 A (WEICH NADINE S ;GLUCKSMANN MARIA ALEXANDRA (US); MILLENNIUM PHARM) 27 April 2000 (2000-04-27) SEQ.IDs. 5 and 6 ---	1-8,11
P,X	WO 00 31258 A (ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS INC ;LIAW CHEN W (US); LIN I LIN (US); CHEN) 2 June 2000 (2000-06-02) SEQ.IDs. 3 and 4 ---	1-8,11
X	DATABASE EMBL 'Online! Accession Number AL042117, 12 March 1999 (1999-03-12) OTTENWAELDER B. ET AL.: "Homo sapiens mRNA." XP002154864 abstract --- -/--	4



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/12/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Mandl, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 00/06187

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	<p>DATABASE EMBL 'Online! Accession Number AV064817, 19 June 1999 (1999-06-19) CARNINCI P. ET AL.: "Mus musculus adult male small intestine cDNA." XP002154865 abstract</p>	4
A	<p>WO 97 47316 A (MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS INC) 18 December 1997 (1997-12-18) page 31, line 4 - line 37</p>	9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inform: patent family members

International Application No

PC 00/06187

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0023588 A	27-04-2000	AU 1211100 A	08-05-2000
WO 0031258 A	02-06-2000	AU 3790400 A	13-06-2000
		WO 0022131 A	20-04-2000
		AU 6299199 A	01-05-2000
WO 9747316 A	18-12-1997	US 5908609 A	01-06-1999
		US 5932779 A	03-08-1999
		AU 723135 B	17-08-2000
		AU 3383697 A	07-01-1998
		BR 9709684 A	09-05-2000
		CA 2257857 A	18-12-1997
		CN 1227496 A	01-09-1999
		EP 0915706 A	19-05-1999

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/06187

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C12N15/12 C12N15/62 C07K14/72 C07K19/00 C07K16/28
G01N33/566

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12N C07K G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/12/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mandl, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/06187

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	DATABASE EMBL 'Online! Accession Number AV064817, 19 June 1999 (1999-06-19) CARNINCI P. ET AL.: "Mus musculus adult male small intestine cDNA." XP002154865 abstract	4
A	--- WO 97 47316 A (MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS INC) 18 December 1997 (1997-12-18) page 31, line 4 - line 37 -----	9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/06187

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0023588	A	27-04-2000	AU 1211100 A	08-05-2000
WO 0031258	A	02-06-2000	AU 3790400 A	13-06-2000
			WO 0022131 A	20-04-2000
			AU 6299199 A	01-05-2000
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			US 5932779 A	03-08-1999
			AU 723135 B	17-08-2000
			AU 3383697 A	07-01-1998
			BR 9709684 A	09-05-2000
			CA 2257857 A	18-12-1997
			CN 1227496 A	01-09-1999
			EP 0915706 A	19-05-1999


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WIPO

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0099327-wsgs	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/06187	International filing date (day/month/year) 03/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 13/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12N15/12		
Applicant MERCK PATENT GMBH et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the reportII <input type="checkbox"/> PriorityIII <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicabilityIV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of inventionV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statementVI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents citedVII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international applicationVIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application		
Date of submission of the demand 13/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 17.08.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Giebeler, K Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8546	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06187

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-33 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-11 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

Sequence listing part of the description, pages:

38-41, as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☒ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☒ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06187

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	2,3,5,8-11
	No:	Claims	1,4,6,7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	2,3,5,8-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The following documents are cited:

D1: WO 00 23588 A

D2: WO 00 31258 A

D3: DATABASE EMBL [Online] Accession Number AL042117, 12 March 1999 (1999-03-12) OTTENWAEELDER B. ET AL.: 'Homo sapiens mRNA.'

D4: DATABASE EMBL [Online] Accession Number AV064817, 19 June 1999 CARNINCI P. ET AL.: 'Mus musculus adult male small intestine cDNA.'

D5: WO 97 47316 A

2. The documents D1 and D2 indicated in the international search report as P-documents are not to be regarded as state of the art according to Rule 64.1b)ii) PCT, since the present priority date appears to be validly claimed.
3. The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(1)(2) PCT because the subject-matter of claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 is not new.

Claim 1(e) refers to fragments and variants and therefore encompasses any known G-protein coupled receptor as well as short peptidic fragments. Claim 4 lacks novelty accordingly. Furthermore, the documents D3 and D4 are prejudicial to the novelty of claims 4(e), 6 and 7. A product is not rendered novel merely by the fact that it is produced by a new process.

4. The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT because the subject-matter of claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-11 does not involve an inventive step.

The application discloses a nucleotide sequence with an open reading frame corresponding to a putative G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide. However, no evidence whatsoever for its biological activity or role is provided. Consequently, the invention of the present application is considered merely to be the provision of

a transcribed sequence ("a DNA") with no known technical useful property.

In this case, **any** prior art compound (e.g. a receptor or encoding DNA) is equally suitable as the starting point for making structural modifications and may be considered as the "closest prior art".

Starting from this point, the only technical problem which may be derived is the provision of a further compound as such, regardless of its useful properties. Without the concomitant need to provide any particular technical effect, the skilled person would have had the choice of an infinite number of equally possible solutions. An arbitrary selection from this host of possible solutions cannot involve an inventive step because, in order to be inventive, the selection must not be arbitrary but must be justified by the technical purpose, i.e. by a hitherto unknown or unexpected technical effect which is caused by those structural features distinguishing the claimed compound from the numerous other ones.

Therefore, claims 2, 3 and 5 lack an inventive step. Claims 8-11 would only be considered inventive if they referred to novel and inventive polypeptides or polynucleotides.

It should furthermore be noted that claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-11 lack an inventive step over each of the documents D3 and D4. It would have been obvious for a skilled person, and require nothing more than standard techniques, to isolate the full-length human clone of the DNA of D3 or the human counterpart of the DNA of D4, respectively.

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

5. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No Patent No	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
WO 00/23588	27.04.00	18.10.99	16.10.98
WO 00/31258	02.06.00	13.10.99	20.11.98

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

6. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because claims 1 and 4 are not clear.

The vague and indefinite terms "fragments" and "variants" are unclear in claims 1 and 4. The corresponding definitions given on pages 23 and 24 of the description are likewise unclear, especially since the application does not disclose the biological function or activity of the polypeptide according to the invention.

Claim 4(e) is furthermore unclear since it defines a product in terms of a process for its preparation, which is only considered to be clear if there is no other information available in the application which could enable the applicant to define the product satisfactorily by reference to its composition, structure or other testable parameters.

0044 324

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2001 (18.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/04292 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 15/12, 15/62, C07K 14/72, 19/00, 16/28, G01N 33/566
SCHARM, Burkhard [DE/DE]; Mailänder Strasse 12/1510, D-60598 Frankfurt am Main (DE).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/06187
(74) Common Representative: MERCK PATENT GMBH; Frankfurter Strasse 250, D-64293 Darmstadt (DE).
- (22) International Filing Date: 3 July 2000 (03.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
(81) Designated States (*national*): CA, JP, US.
- (26) Publication Language: English
(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
- (30) Priority Data:
99113709.2 13 July 1999 (13.07.1999) EP
Published:
— With international search report.
— Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): MERCK PATENT GMBH [DE/DE]; Frankfurter Strasse 250, D-64293 Darmstadt (DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): DÜCKER, Klaus [DE/DE]; Ettesterstrasse 5, D-64291 Darmstadt (DE).
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTOR AND DNA SEQUENCES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: ICSR-1 polypeptides and polynucleotides and methods for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods for utilizing ICSR-1 polypeptides and polynucleotides in diagnostic assays.

WO 01/04292 A1

G-protein coupled receptor and DNA sequences thereof

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to newly identified polypeptides and polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, to their use in diagnosis and in identifying compounds that may be agonists, antagonists that are potentially useful in therapy, and to production of such polypeptides and polynucleotides, sometimes hereinafter referred to as "ICSR-1"

Background of the Invention

The drug discovery process is currently undergoing a fundamental revolution as it embraces "functional genomics", that is, high throughput genome- or gene-based biology. This approach as a means to identify genes and gene products as therapeutic targets is rapidly superceding earlier approaches based on "positional cloning". A phenotype, that is a biological function or genetic disease, would be identified and this would then be tracked back to the responsible gene, based on its genetic map position.

Functional genomics relies heavily on high-throughput DNA sequencing technologies and the various tools of bioinformatics to identify gene sequences of potential interest from the many molecular biology databases now available. There is a continuing need to identify and characterise further genes and their related polypeptides/proteins, as targets for drug discovery.

It is well established that many medically significant biological processes are mediated by proteins participating in signal transduction pathways that involve G-proteins and/or second messengers, e.g., cAMP (Lefkowitz, Nature, 1991, 351:353-354). Herein these proteins are referred to as proteins participating in pathways with G-proteins or PPG proteins. Some examples of these proteins include the GPC receptors, such as those for adrenergic agents and dopamine (Kobilka, B.K., et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci., USA, 1987, 84:46-50; Kobilka, B.K., et al., Science, 1987, 238:650-656; Bunzow, J.R., et al., Nature, 1988, 336:783-787). G-proteins

themselves, effector proteins, e.g., phospholipase C, adenylyl cyclase, and phosphodiesterase, and actuator proteins, e.g., protein kinase A and protein kinase C (Simon, M.I., et al., Science, 1991, 252:802-8).

For example, in one form of signal transduction, the effect of hormone binding is activation of the enzyme, adenylyl cyclase, inside the cell. Enzyme activation by hormones is dependent on the presence of the nucleotide GTP. GTP also influences hormone binding. A G-protein connects the hormone receptor to adenylyl cyclase. G-protein was shown to exchange GTP for bound GDP when activated by a hormone receptor. The GTP-carrying form then binds to activated adenylyl cyclase. Hydrolysis of GTP to GDP, catalyzed by the G-protein itself, returns the G-protein to its basal, inactive form. Thus, the G-protein serves a dual role, as an intermediate that relays the signal from receptor to effector, and as a clock that controls the duration of the signal.

The membrane protein gene superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors has been characterized as having seven putative transmembrane domains. The domains are believed to represent transmembrane α -helices connected by extracellular or cytoplasmic loops. G-protein coupled receptors include a wide range of biologically active receptors, such as hormone, viral, growth factor and neuroreceptors.

G-protein coupled receptors (otherwise known as 7TM receptors) have been characterized as including these seven conserved hydrophobic stretches of about 20 to 30 amino acids, connecting at least eight divergent hydrophilic loops. The G-protein family of coupled receptors includes dopamine receptors which bind to neuroleptic drugs used for treating psychotic and neurological disorders. Other examples of members of this family include, but are not limited to, calcitonin, adrenergic, endothelin, cAMP, adenosine, muscarinic, acetylcholine, serotonin, histamine, thrombin, kinin, follicle stimulating hormone, opsins, endothelial differentiation gene-1, rhodopsins, odorant, and cytomegalovirus receptors.

Most G-protein coupled receptors have single conserved cysteine residues in each of the first two extracellular loops which form disulfide bonds that are believed to stabilize functional protein structure. The 7 transmembrane regions are designated as TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4, TM5, TM6, and TM7. TM3 has been implicated in signal transduction.

Phosphorylation and lipidation (palmitoylation or farnesylation) of cysteine residues can influence signal transduction of some G-protein coupled receptors. Most G-protein coupled receptors contain potential phosphorylation sites within the third cytoplasmic loop and/or the carboxy terminus. For several G-protein coupled receptors, such as the β -adrenoreceptor, phosphorylation by protein kinase A and/or specific receptor kinases mediates receptor desensitization.

For some receptors, the ligand binding sites of G-protein coupled receptors are believed to comprise hydrophilic sockets formed by several G-protein coupled receptor transmembrane domains, said socket being surrounded by hydrophobic residues of the G-protein coupled receptors. The hydrophilic side of each G-protein coupled receptor transmembrane helix is postulated to face inward and form polar ligand binding site. TM3 has been implicated in several G-protein coupled receptors as having a ligand binding site, such as the TM3 aspartate residue. TM5 serines, a TM6 asparagine and TM6 or TM7 phenylalanines or tyrosines are also implicated in ligand binding.

G-protein coupled receptors can be intracellularly coupled by heterotrimeric G-proteins to various intracellular enzymes, ion channels and transporters (see, Johnson et al., Endoc. Rev., 1989, 10:317-331). Different G-protein α -subunits preferentially stimulate particular effectors to modulate various biological functions in a cell. Phosphorylation of cytoplasmic residues of G-protein coupled receptors have been identified as an important mechanism for the regulation of G-protein coupling of some G-protein coupled receptors. G-protein coupled receptors are found in numerous sites within a mammalian host.

Over the past 15 years, nearly 350 therapeutic agents targeting 7 transmembrane (7 TM) receptors have been successfully introduced onto the market.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to ICSR-1, in particular ICSR-1 polypeptides and ICSR-1 polynucleotides, recombinant materials and methods for their production. Such polypeptides and polynucleotides are of interest in

relation to methods of treatment of certain diseases, including, but not limited to, infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; diabetes, obesity; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Crohn disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; stroke; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; migraine; vomiting; psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, depression, delirium, dementia, and severe mental retardation; and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome, hereinafter referred to as "diseases of the invention". In a further aspect, the invention relates to methods for identifying agonists and antagonists (e.g., inhibitors) using the materials provided by the invention, and treating conditions associated with ICSR-1 imbalance with the identified compounds. In a still further aspect, the invention relates to diagnostic assays for detecting diseases associated with inappropriate ICSR-1 activity or levels.

Description of the Invention

In a first aspect, the present invention relates to ICSR-1 polypeptides. Such polypeptides include:

(a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) an isolated polypeptide comprising the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(d) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(e) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(f) an isolated polypeptide having or comprising a polypeptide sequence that has an Identity Index of 0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, or 0.99 compared to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2:

(g) fragments and variants of such polypeptides in (a) to (f).

5 Polypeptides of the present invention are believed to be members of the G-protein coupled receptor (7 transmembrane receptor) family of polypeptides.

10 The biological properties of the ICSR-1 are hereinafter referred to as "biological activity of ICSR-1" or "ICSR-1 activity". Preferably, a polypeptide of the present invention exhibits at least one biological activity of ICSR-1.

15 Polypeptides of the present invention also includes variants of the aforementioned polypeptides, including all allelic forms and splice variants. Such polypeptides vary from the reference polypeptide by insertions, deletions, and substitutions that may be conservative or non-conservative, or any combination thereof. Particularly preferred variants are those in which several, for instance from 50 to 30, from 30 to 20, from 20 to 10, from 10 to 5, from 5 to 3, from 3 to 2, from 2 to 1 or 1 amino acids are inserted, substituted, or deleted, in any combination.

20 Preferred fragments of polypeptides of the present invention include an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 30, 50 or 100 contiguous amino acids from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 30, 50 or 100 contiguous amino acids truncated
25 or deleted from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. Preferred fragments are biologically active fragments that mediate the biological activity of ICSR-1, including those with a similar activity or an improved activity, or with a decreased undesirable activity. Also preferred are those fragments that are antigenic or immunogenic in an animal, especially in a
30 human.

Fragments of the polypeptides of the invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length polypeptide by peptide synthesis; therefore, these variants may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length polypeptides of the invention. The polypeptides of

the present invention may be in the form of the "mature" protein or may be a part of a larger protein such as a precursor or a fusion protein. It is often advantageous to include an additional amino acid sequence that contains secretory or leader sequences, pro-sequences, sequences that aid in purification, for instance multiple histidine residues, or an additional sequence for stability during recombinant production.

Polypeptides of the present invention can be prepared in any suitable manner, for instance by isolation from naturally occurring sources, from genetically engineered host cells comprising expression systems (*vide infra*) or by chemical synthesis, using for instance automated peptide synthesisers, or a combination of such methods. Means for preparing such polypeptides are well understood in the art.

In a further aspect, the present invention relates to ICSR-1 polynucleotides. Such polynucleotides include:

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (d) the isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (e) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (f) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (g) an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(h) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(i) an isolated polynucleotide having or comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has an Identity Index of 0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, or 0.99 compared to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

5 (j) an isolated polynucleotide having or comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence that has an Identity Index of 0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, or 0.99 compared to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

10 polynucleotides that are fragments and variants of the above mentioned polynucleotides or that are complementary to above mentioned polynucleotides, over the entire length thereof.

Preferred fragments of polynucleotides of the present invention include an isolated polynucleotide comprising an nucleotide sequence having at least 15, 30, 50 or 100 contiguous nucleotides from the
15 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or an isolated polynucleotide comprising an sequence having at least 30, 50 or 100 contiguous nucleotides truncated or deleted from the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Preferred variants of polynucleotides of the present invention include splice variants, allelic variants, and polymorphisms, including
20 polynucleotides having one or more single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs).

Polynucleotides of the present invention also include polynucleotides encoding polypeptide variants that comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and in which several, for instance from 50 to 30, from 30 to
25 20, from 20 to 10, from 10 to 5, from 5 to 3, from 3 to 2, from 2 to 1 or 1 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides polynucleotides that are RNA transcripts of the DNA sequences of the present invention. Accordingly, there is provided an RNA polynucleotide that:

30 (a) comprises an RNA transcript of the DNA sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) is the RNA transcript of the DNA sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) comprises an RNA transcript of the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or

(d) is the RNA transcript of the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

and RNA polynucleotides that are complementary thereto.

The polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 shows homology with CHKGPCR (Kaplan, M.H. et al., J. Immunol. 151, 628-636 (1993)). The polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is a cDNA sequence that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 may be identical to the polypeptide encoding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or it may be a sequence other than SEQ ID NO:1, which, as a result of the redundancy (degeneracy) of the genetic code, also encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The polypeptide of the SEQ ID NO:2 is related to other proteins of the G-protein coupled receptor (7 transmembrane receptor) family, having homology and/or structural similarity with AAB06587 (Kaplan, M.H. et al., J. Immunol. 151, 628-636 (1993)).

Preferred polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention are expected to have, *inter alia*, similar biological functions/properties to their homologous polypeptides and polynucleotides. Furthermore, preferred polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention have at least one ICSR-1 activity.

Polynucleotides of the present invention may be obtained using standard cloning and screening techniques from a cDNA library derived from mRNA in cells of **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.** lymph node, whole blood, eythroleukemic cells (see for instance, Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989)). Polynucleotides of the invention can also be obtained from natural sources such as genomic

DNA libraries or can be synthesized using well known and commercially available techniques.

When polynucleotides of the present invention are used for the recombinant production of polypeptides of the present invention, the polynucleotide may include the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide, by itself, or the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide in reading frame with other coding sequences, such as those encoding a leader or secretory sequence, a pre-, or pro- or prepro- protein sequence, or other fusion peptide portions. For example, a marker sequence that facilitates purification of the fused polypeptide can be encoded. In certain preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the marker sequence is a hexa-histidine peptide, as provided in the pQE vector (Qiagen, Inc.) and described in Gentz *et al.*, Proc Natl Acad Sci USA (1989) 86:821-824, or is an HA tag. The polynucleotide may also contain non-coding 5' and 3' sequences, such as transcribed, non-translated sequences, splicing and polyadenylation signals, ribosome binding sites and sequences that stabilize mRNA.

Polynucleotides that are identical, or have sufficient identity to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, may be used as hybridization probes for cDNA and genomic DNA or as primers for a nucleic acid amplification reaction (for instance, PCR). Such probes and primers may be used to isolate full-length cDNAs and genomic clones encoding polypeptides of the present invention and to isolate cDNA and genomic clones of other genes (including genes encoding paralogs from human sources and orthologs and paralogs from species other than **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**) that have a high sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:1, typically at least 95% identity. Preferred probes and primers will generally comprise at least 15 nucleotides, preferably, at least 30 nucleotides and may have at least 50, if not at least 100 nucleotides. Particularly preferred probes will have between 30 and 50 nucleotides. Particularly preferred primers will have between 20 and 25 nucleotides.

A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of the present invention, including homologs from species other than **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**, may be obtained by a process comprising the steps of screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled

probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof, preferably of at least 15 nucleotides; and isolating full-length cDNA and genomic clones containing said polynucleotide sequence. Such hybridization techniques are well known to the skilled artisan. Preferred stringent hybridization conditions include overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10 % dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C. Thus the present invention also includes isolated polynucleotides, preferably with a nucleotide sequence of at least 100, obtained by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof, preferably of at least 15 nucleotides.

The skilled artisan will appreciate that, in many cases, an isolated cDNA sequence will be incomplete, in that the region coding for the polypeptide does not extend all the way through to the 5' terminus. This is a consequence of reverse transcriptase, an enzyme with inherently low "processivity" (a measure of the ability of the enzyme to remain attached to the template during the polymerisation reaction), failing to complete a DNA copy of the mRNA template during first strand cDNA synthesis.

There are several methods available and well known to those skilled in the art to obtain full-length cDNAs, or extend short cDNAs, for example those based on the method of Rapid Amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) (see, for example, Frohman et al., Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 85, 8998-9002, 1988). Recent modifications of the technique, exemplified by the Marathon (trade mark) technology (Clontech Laboratories Inc.) for example, have significantly simplified the search for longer cDNAs. In the Marathon (trade mark) technology, cDNAs have been prepared from mRNA extracted from a chosen tissue and an 'adaptor' sequence ligated onto each end. Nucleic acid amplification (PCR) is then carried out to amplify the "missing" 5' end of the cDNA using a combination of gene specific and adaptor specific oligonucleotide primers. The PCR reaction is then repeated using 'nested' primers, that is, primers designed to anneal within the amplified product (typically an adaptor specific primer that anneals further 3' in the adaptor sequence and a gene specific primer that anneals further 5' in the known gene sequence). The

products of this reaction can then be analysed by DNA sequencing and a full-length cDNA constructed either by joining the product directly to the existing cDNA to give a complete sequence, or carrying out a separate full-length PCR using the new sequence information for the design of the 5' primer.

Recombinant polypeptides of the present invention may be prepared by processes well known in the art from genetically engineered host cells comprising expression systems. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention relates to expression systems comprising a polynucleotide or polynucleotides of the present invention, to host cells which are genetically engineered with such expression systems and to the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention.

For recombinant production, host cells can be genetically engineered to incorporate expression systems or portions thereof for polynucleotides of the present invention. Polynucleotides may be introduced into host cells by methods described in many standard laboratory manuals, such as Davis et al., Basic Methods in Molecular Biology (1986) and Sambrook *et al. (ibid)*. Preferred methods of introducing polynucleotides into host cells include, for instance, calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-dextran mediated transfection, transvection, microinjection, cationic lipid-mediated transfection, electroporation, transduction, scrape loading, ballistic introduction or infection.

Representative examples of appropriate hosts include bacterial cells, such as *Streptococci*, *Staphylococci*, *E. coli*, *Streptomyces* and *Bacillus subtilis* cells; fungal cells, such as yeast cells and *Aspergillus* cells; insect cells such as *Drosophila* S2 and *Spodoptera* Sf9 cells; animal cells such as CHO, COS, HeLa, C127, 3T3, BHK, HEK 293 and Bowes melanoma cells; and plant cells.

A great variety of expression systems can be used, for instance, chromosomal, episomal and virus-derived systems, e.g., vectors derived from bacterial plasmids, from bacteriophage, from transposons, from yeast

episomes, from insertion elements, from yeast chromosomal elements, from viruses such as baculoviruses, papova viruses, such as SV40, vaccinia viruses, adenoviruses, fowl pox viruses, pseudorabies viruses and retroviruses, and vectors derived from combinations thereof, such as those
5 derived from plasmid and bacteriophage genetic elements, such as cosmids and phagemids. The expression systems may contain control regions that regulate as well as engender expression. Generally, any system or vector that is able to maintain, propagate or express a polynucleotide to produce a polypeptide in a host may be used. The
10 appropriate polynucleotide sequence may be inserted into an expression system by any of a variety of well-known and routine techniques, such as, for example, those set forth in Sambrook *et al.*, (*ibid*). Appropriate secretion signals may be incorporated into the desired polypeptide to allow secretion of the translated protein into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum, the
15 periplasmic space or the extracellular environment. These signals may be endogenous to the polypeptide or they may be heterologous signals.

If a polypeptide of the present invention is to be expressed for use in screening assays, it is generally preferred that the polypeptide be produced at the surface of the cell. In this event, the cells may be
20 harvested prior to use in the screening assay. If the polypeptide is secreted into the medium, the medium can be recovered in order to recover and purify the polypeptide. If produced intracellularly, the cells must first be lysed before the polypeptide is recovered.

Polypeptides of the present invention can be recovered and purified from
25 recombinant cell cultures by well-known methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Most preferably, high
30 performance liquid chromatography is employed for purification. Well known techniques for refolding proteins may be employed to regenerate active conformation when the polypeptide is denatured during intracellular synthesis, isolation and/or purification.

Polynucleotides of the present invention may be used as diagnostic
35 reagents, through detecting mutations in the associated gene. Detection of a mutated form of the gene characterised by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID

NO:1 in the cDNA or genomic sequence and which is associated with a dysfunction will provide a diagnostic tool that can add to, or define, a diagnosis of a disease, or susceptibility to a disease, which results from under-expression, over-expression or altered spatial or temporal expression of the gene. Individuals carrying mutations in the gene may be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques well known in the art.

Nucleic acids for diagnosis may be obtained from a subject's cells, such as from blood, urine, saliva, tissue biopsy or autopsy material. The genomic DNA may be used directly for detection or it may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR, preferably RT-PCR, or other amplification techniques prior to analysis. RNA or cDNA may also be used in similar fashion. Deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the normal genotype. Point mutations can be identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to labeled ICSR-1 nucleotide sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase digestion or by differences in melting temperatures. DNA sequence difference may also be detected by alterations in the electrophoretic mobility of DNA fragments in gels, with or without denaturing agents, or by direct DNA sequencing (see, for instance, Myers *et al.*, Science (1985) 230:1242). Sequence changes at specific locations may also be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or the chemical cleavage method (see Cotton *et al.*, Proc Natl Acad Sci USA (1985) 85: 4397-4401).

An array of oligonucleotides probes comprising ICSR-1 polynucleotide sequence or fragments thereof can be constructed to conduct efficient screening of *e.g.*, genetic mutations. Such arrays are preferably high density arrays or grids. Array technology methods are well known and have general applicability and can be used to address a variety of questions in molecular genetics including gene expression, genetic linkage, and genetic variability, see, for example, M.Chee *et al.*, Science, 274, 610-613 (1996) and other references cited therein.

Detection of abnormally decreased or increased levels of polypeptide or mRNA expression may also be used for diagnosing or determining susceptibility of a subject to a disease of the invention. Decreased or increased expression can be measured at the RNA level using any of the methods well known in the art for the quantitation of polynucleotides,

such as, for example, nucleic acid amplification, for instance PCR, RT-PCR, RNase protection, Northern blotting and other hybridization methods. Assay techniques that can be used to determine levels of a protein, such as a polypeptide of the present invention, in a sample derived from a host are well-known to those of skill in the art. Such assay methods include radioimmunoassays, competitive-binding assays, Western Blot analysis and ELISA assays.

Thus in another aspect, the present invention relates to a diagnostic kit comprising:

- (a) a polynucleotide of the present invention, preferably the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment or an RNA transcript thereof;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of (a);
- (c) a polypeptide of the present invention, preferably the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof; or
- (d) an antibody to a polypeptide of the present invention, preferably to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

It will be appreciated that in any such kit, (a), (b), (c) or (d) may comprise a substantial component. Such a kit will be of use in diagnosing a disease or susceptibility to a disease, particularly diseases of the invention, amongst others.

The polynucleotide sequences of the present invention are valuable for chromosome localisation studies. The sequence is specifically targeted to, and can hybridize with, a particular location on an individual human chromosome. The mapping of relevant sequences to chromosomes according to the present invention is an important first step in correlating those sequences with gene associated disease. Once a sequence has been mapped to a precise chromosomal location, the physical position of the sequence on the chromosome can be correlated with genetic map data. Such data are found in, for example, V. McKusick, Mendelian Inheritance in Man (available on-line through Johns Hopkins University Welch Medical Library). The relationship between genes and diseases that have been mapped to the same chromosomal region are then identified through

linkage analysis (co-inheritance of physically adjacent genes). Precise human chromosomal localisations for a genomic sequence (gene fragment etc.) can be determined using Radiation Hybrid (RH) Mapping (Walter, M. Spillett, D., Thomas, P., Weissenbach, J., and Goodfellow, P., (1994) A method for constructing radiation hybrid maps of whole genomes. *Nature Genetics* 7, 22-28). A number of RH panels are available from Research Genetics (Huntsville, AL, USA) e.g. the GeneBridge4 RH panel (Hum Mol Genet 1996 Mar;5(3):339-46 A radiation hybrid map of the human genome. Gyapay G, Schmitt K, Fizames C, Jones H, Vega-Czarny N, Spillett D, Muselet D, Prud'Homme JF, Dib C, Auffray C, Morissette J, Weissenbach J, Goodfellow PN). To determine the chromosomal location of a gene using this panel, 93 PCRs are performed using primers designed from the gene of interest on RH DNAs. Each of these DNAs contains random human genomic fragments maintained in a hamster background (human / hamster hybrid cell lines). These PCRs result in 93 scores indicating the presence or absence of the PCR product of the gene of interest. These scores are compared with scores created using PCR products from genomic sequences of known location. This comparison is conducted at <http://www.genome.wi.mit.edu/>. The gene of the present invention maps to human chromosome 12p13.3.

The polynucleotide sequences of the present invention are also valuable tools for tissue expression studies. Such studies allow the determination of expression patterns of polynucleotides of the present invention which may give an indication as to the expression patterns of the encoded polypeptides in tissues, by detecting the mRNAs that encode them. The techniques used are well known in the art and include in situ hybridisation techniques to clones arrayed on a grid, such as cDNA microarray hybridisation (Schena *et al*, *Science*, 270, 467-470, 1995 and Shalon *et al*, *Genome Res*, 6, 639-645, 1996) and nucleotide amplification techniques such as PCR. A preferred method uses the TAQMAN (Trade mark) technology available from Perkin Elmer. Results from these studies can provide an indication of the normal function of the polypeptide in the organism. In addition, comparative studies of the normal expression pattern of mRNAs with that of mRNAs encoded by an alternative form of the same gene (for example, one having an alteration in polypeptide coding

potential or a regulatory mutation) can provide valuable insights into the role of the polypeptides of the present invention, or that of inappropriate expression thereof in disease. Such inappropriate expression may be of a temporal, spatial or simply quantitative nature.

5 The polypeptides of the present invention are expressed in the lymph node, in blood cells, in immune cells and erythroleukemic cells.

10 A further aspect of the present invention relates to antibodies. The polypeptides of the invention or their fragments, or cells expressing them, can be used as immunogens to produce antibodies that are immunospecific for polypeptides of the present invention. The term "immunospecific" means that the antibodies have substantially greater affinity for the polypeptides of the invention than their affinity for other related polypeptides in the prior art.

15 Antibodies generated against polypeptides of the present invention may be obtained by administering the polypeptides or epitope-bearing fragments, or cells to an animal, preferably a non-human animal, using routine protocols. For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used.
20 Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler, G. and Milstein, C., *Nature* (1975) 256:495-497), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor *et al.*, *Immunology Today* (1983) 4:72) and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Cole *et al.*, *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, 77-96, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1985).

25 Techniques for the production of single chain antibodies, such as those described in U.S. Patent No. 4,946,778, can also be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to polypeptides of this invention. Also, transgenic mice, or other organisms, including other mammals, may be used to express humanized antibodies.

30 The above-described antibodies may be employed to isolate or to identify clones expressing the polypeptide or to purify the polypeptides by affinity chromatography. Antibodies against polypeptides of the present invention may also be employed to treat diseases of the invention, amongst others.

Polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention may also be used as vaccines. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention relates to a method for inducing an immunological response in a mammal that comprises inoculating the mammal with a polypeptide of the present invention, adequate to produce antibody and/or T cell immune response, including, for example, cytokine-producing T cells or cytotoxic T cells, to protect said animal from disease, whether that disease is already established within the individual or not. An immunological response in a mammal may also be induced by a method comprises delivering a polypeptide of the present invention *via* a vector directing expression of the polynucleotide and coding for the polypeptide *in vivo* in order to induce such an immunological response to produce antibody to protect said animal from diseases of the invention. One way of administering the vector is by accelerating it into the desired cells as a coating on particles or otherwise. Such nucleic acid vector may comprise DNA, RNA, a modified nucleic acid, or a DNA/RNA hybrid. For use a vaccine, a polypeptide or a nucleic acid vector will be normally provided as a vaccine formulation (composition). The formulation may further comprise a suitable carrier. Since a polypeptide may be broken down in the stomach, it is preferably administered parenterally (for instance, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or intradermal injection). Formulations suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions that may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes that render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that may include suspending agents or thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example, sealed ampoules and vials and may be stored in a freeze-dried condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier immediately prior to use. The vaccine formulation may also include adjuvant systems for enhancing the immunogenicity of the formulation, such as oil-in water systems and other systems known in the art. The dosage will depend on the specific activity of the vaccine and can be readily determined by routine experimentation.

Polypeptides of the present invention have one or more biological functions that are of relevance in one or more disease states, in particular the diseases of the invention hereinbefore mentioned. It is therefore useful to to identify compounds that stimulate or inhibit the function or level of the polypeptide. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides for a method of screening compounds to identify those that stimulate or inhibit the function or level of the polypeptide. Such methods identify agonists or antagonists that may be employed for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes for such diseases of the invention as hereinbefore mentioned. Compounds may be identified from a variety of sources, for example, cells, cell-free preparations, chemical libraries, collections of chemical compounds, and natural product mixtures. Such agonists or antagonists so-identified may be natural or modified substrates, ligands, receptors, enzymes, etc., as the case may be, of the polypeptide: a structural or functional mimetic thereof (see Coligan *et al.*, Current Protocols in Immunology 1(2):Chapter 5 (1991)) or a small molecule.

The screening method may simply measure the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide, or to cells or membranes bearing the polypeptide, or a fusion protein thereof, by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound. Alternatively, the screening method may involve measuring or detecting (qualitatively or quantitatively) the competitive binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide against a labeled competitor (e.g. agonist or antagonist). Further, these screening methods may test whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells bearing the polypeptide. Inhibitors of activation are generally assayed in the presence of a known agonist and the effect on activation by the agonist by the presence of the candidate compound is observed. Further, the screening methods may simply comprise the steps of mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of the present invention, to form a mixture, measuring a ICSR-1 activity in the mixture, and comparing the ICSR-1 activity of the mixture to a control mixture which contains no candidate compound.

Polypeptides of the present invention may be employed in conventional low capacity screening methods and also in high-throughput screening (HTS) formats. Such HTS formats include not only the well-established

use of 96- and, more recently, 384-well micotiter plates but also emerging methods such as the nanowell method described by Schullek et al. Anal Biochem., 246, 20-29, (1997).

Fusion proteins, such as those made from Fc portion and ICSR-1 polypeptide, as hereinbefore described can also be used for high-throughput screening assays to identify antagonists for the polypeptide of the present invention (see D. Bennett *et al.*, J Mol Recognition, 8:52-58 (1995); and K. Johanson *et al.*, J Biol Chem, 270(16):9459-9471 (1995)).

One screening technique includes the use of cells which express receptor of this invention (for example, transfected CHO cells) in a system which measures extracellular pH or intracellular calcium changes caused by receptor activation. In this technique, compounds may be contacted with cells expressing the receptor polypeptide of the present invention. A second messenger response, e.g., signal transduction, pH changes, or changes in calcium level, is then measured to determine whether the potential compound activates or inhibits the receptor.

Another method involves screening for receptor inhibitors by determining inhibition or stimulation of receptor-mediated cAMP and/or adenylate cyclase accumulation. Such a method involves transfecting a eukaryotic cell with the receptor of this invention to express the receptor on the cell surface. The cell is then exposed to potential antagonists in the presence of the receptor of this invention. The amount of cAMP accumulation is then measured. If the potential antagonist binds the receptor, and thus inhibits receptor binding, the levels of receptor-mediated cAMP, or adenylate cyclase, activity will be reduced or increased.

Another methods for detecting agonists or antagonists for the receptor of the present invention is the yeast based technology as described in U.S. Patent 5,482,835.

Screening techniques

The polynucleotides, polypeptides and antibodies to the polypeptide of the present invention may also be used to configure screening methods for detecting the effect of added compounds on the production of mRNA and polypeptide in cells. For example, an ELISA assay may be constructed for measuring secreted or cell associated levels of polypeptide using monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies by standard methods known in the art. This can be used to discover agents that may inhibit or enhance the production of polypeptide (also called antagonist or agonist, respectively) from suitably manipulated cells or tissues.

A polypeptide of the present invention may be used to identify membrane bound or soluble receptors, if any, through standard receptor binding techniques known in the art. These include, but are not limited to, ligand binding and crosslinking assays in which the polypeptide is labeled with a radioactive isotope (for instance, ^{125}I), chemically modified (for instance, biotinylated), or fused to a peptide sequence suitable for detection or purification, and incubated with a source of the putative receptor (cells, cell membranes, cell supernatants, tissue extracts, bodily fluids). Other methods include biophysical techniques such as surface plasmon resonance and spectroscopy. These screening methods may also be used to identify agonists and antagonists of the polypeptide that compete with the binding of the polypeptide to its receptors, if any. Standard methods for conducting such assays are well understood in the art.

Examples of antagonists of polypeptides of the present invention include antibodies or, in some cases, oligonucleotides or proteins that are closely related to the ligands, substrates, receptors, enzymes, etc., as the case may be, of the polypeptide, e.g., a fragment of the ligands, substrates, receptors, enzymes, etc.; or a small molecule that bind to the polypeptide of the present invention but do not elicit a response, so that the activity of the polypeptide is prevented.

Screening methods may also involve the use of transgenic technology and ICSR-1 gene. The art of constructing transgenic animals is well established. For example, the ICSR-1 gene may be introduced through microinjection into the male pronucleus of fertilized oocytes, retroviral transfer into pre- or post-implantation embryos, or injection of genetically modified, such as by electroporation, embryonic stem cells into host blastocysts. Particularly useful transgenic animals are so-called "knock-

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in" animals in which an animal gene is replaced by the human equivalent within the genome of that animal. Knock-in transgenic animals are useful in the drug discovery process, for target validation, where the compound is specific for the human target. Other useful transgenic animals are so-called "knock-out" animals in which the expression of the animal ortholog of a polypeptide of the present invention and encoded by an endogenous DNA sequence in a cell is partially or completely annulled. The gene knock-out may be targeted to specific cells or tissues, may occur only in certain cells or tissues as a consequence of the limitations of the technology, or may occur in all, or substantially all, cells in the animal. Transgenic animal technology also offers a whole animal expression-cloning system in which introduced genes are expressed to give large amounts of polypeptides of the present invention

Screening kits for use in the above described methods form a further aspect of the present invention. Such screening kits comprise:

- (a) a polypeptide of the present invention;
- (b) a recombinant cell expressing a polypeptide of the present invention;
- (c) a cell membrane expressing a polypeptide of the present invention; or
- (d) an antibody to a polypeptide of the present invention;

which polypeptide is preferably that of SEQ ID NO:2.

It will be appreciated that in any such kit, (a), (b), (c) or (d) may comprise a substantial component.

Glossary

The following definitions are provided to facilitate understanding of certain terms used frequently hereinbefore.

"Antibodies" as used herein includes polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, chimeric, single chain, and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, including the products of an

Fab or other immunoglobulin expression library.

"Isolated" means altered "by the hand of man" from its natural state, i.e., if it occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For example, a polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living organism is not "isolated," but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is "isolated", as the term is employed herein. Moreover, a polynucleotide or polypeptide that is introduced into an organism by transformation, genetic manipulation or by any other recombinant method is "isolated" even if it is still present in said organism, which organism may be living or non-living.

"Polynucleotide" generally refers to any polyribonucleotide (RNA) or polydeoxiribonucleotide (DNA), which may be unmodified or modified RNA or DNA. "Polynucleotides" include, without limitation, single- and double-stranded DNA, DNA that is a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, single- and double-stranded RNA, and RNA that is mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, hybrid molecules comprising DNA and RNA that may be single-stranded or, more typically, double-stranded or a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions. In addition, "polynucleotide" refers to triple-stranded regions comprising RNA or DNA or both RNA and DNA. The term "polynucleotide" also includes DNAs or RNAs containing one or more modified bases and DNAs or RNAs with backbones modified for stability or for other reasons. "Modified" bases include, for example, tritylated bases and unusual bases such as inosine. A variety of modifications may be made to DNA and RNA; thus, "polynucleotide" embraces chemically, enzymatically or metabolically modified forms of polynucleotides as typically found in nature, as well as the chemical forms of DNA and RNA characteristic of viruses and cells. "Polynucleotide" also embraces relatively short polynucleotides, often referred to as oligonucleotides.

"Polypeptide" refers to any polypeptide comprising two or more amino acids joined to each other by peptide bonds or modified peptide bonds, i.e., peptide isosteres. "Polypeptide" refers to both short chains, commonly referred to as peptides, oligopeptides or oligomers, and to longer chains, generally referred to as proteins. Polypeptides may contain amino acids other than the 20 gene-encoded amino acids. "Polypeptides" include amino acid sequences modified either by natural processes, such as post-translational processing, or by chemical

modification techniques that are well known in the art. Such modifications are well described in basic texts and in more detailed monographs, as well as in a voluminous research literature. Modifications may occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains and the amino or carboxyl termini. It will be appreciated that the same type of modification may be present to the same or varying degrees at several sites in a given polypeptide. Also, a given polypeptide may contain many types of modifications. Polypeptides may be branched as a result of ubiquitination, and they may be cyclic, with or without branching. Cyclic, branched and branched cyclic polypeptides may result from post-translation natural processes or may be made by synthetic methods. Modifications include acetylation, acylation, ADP-ribosylation, amidation, biotinylation, covalent attachment of flavin, covalent attachment of a heme moiety, covalent attachment of a nucleotide or nucleotide derivative, covalent attachment of a lipid or lipid derivative, covalent attachment of phosphatidylinositol, cross-linking, cyclization, disulfide bond formation, demethylation, formation of covalent cross-links, formation of cystine, formation of pyroglutamate, formylation, gamma-carboxylation, glycosylation, GPI anchor formation, hydroxylation, iodination, methylation, myristoylation, oxidation, proteolytic processing, phosphorylation, prenylation, racemization, selenoylation, sulfation, transfer-RNA mediated addition of amino acids to proteins such as arginylation, and ubiquitination (see, for instance, *Proteins - Structure and Molecular Properties*, 2nd Ed., T. E. Creighton, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York, 1993; Wold, F., *Post-translational Protein Modifications: Perspectives and Prospects*, 1-12, in *Post-translational Covalent Modification of Proteins*, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York, 1983; Seifter *et al.*, "Analysis for protein modifications and nonprotein cofactors", *Meth Enzymol*, 182, 626-646, 1990, and Rattan *et al.*, "Protein Synthesis, Post-translational Modifications and Aging", *Ann NY Acad Sci*, 663, 48-62, 1992).

"Fragment" of a polypeptide sequence refers to a polypeptide sequence that is shorter than the reference sequence but that retains essentially the same biological function or activity as the reference polypeptide. "Fragment" of a polynucleotide sequence refers to a polynucleotide sequence that is shorter than the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:1..

"Variant" refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide that differs from a reference polynucleotide or polypeptide, but retains the essential properties thereof. A typical variant of a polynucleotide differs in nucleotide sequence from the reference polynucleotide. Changes in the nucleotide sequence of the variant may or may not alter the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. Nucleotide changes may result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence, as discussed below. A typical variant of a polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence from the reference polypeptide. Generally, alterations are limited so that the sequences of the reference polypeptide and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical. A variant and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, insertions, deletions in any combination. A substituted or inserted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code. Typical conservative substitutions include Gly, Ala; Val, Ile, Leu; Asp, Glu; Asn, Gln; Ser, Thr; Lys, Arg; and Phe and Tyr. A variant of a polynucleotide or polypeptide may be naturally occurring such as an allele, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Non-naturally occurring variants of polynucleotides and polypeptides may be made by mutagenesis techniques or by direct synthesis. Also included as variants are polypeptides having one or more post-translational modifications, for instance glycosylation, phosphorylation, methylation, ADP ribosylation and the like. Embodiments include methylation of the N-terminal amino acid, phosphorylations of serines and threonines and modification of C-terminal glycines.

"Allele" refers to one of two or more alternative forms of a gene occurring at a given locus in the genome.

"Polymorphism" refers to a variation in nucleotide sequence (and encoded polypeptide sequence, if relevant) at a given position in the genome within a population.

"Single Nucleotide Polymorphism" (SNP) refers to the occurrence of nucleotide variability at a single nucleotide position in the genome, within a population. An SNP may occur within a gene or within intergenic regions of the genome. SNPs can be assayed using Allele Specific

Amplification (ASA) For the process at least 3 primers are required. A common primer is used in reverse complement to the polymorphism being assayed. This common primer can be between 50 and 1500 bps from the polymorphic base. The other two (or more) primers are identical to each other except that the final 3' base wobbles to match one of the two (or more) alleles that make up the polymorphism. Two (or more) PCR reactions are then conducted on sample DNA, each using the common primer and one of the Allele Specific Primers.

"Splice Variant" as used herein refers to cDNA molecules produced from RNA molecules initially transcribed from the same genomic DNA sequence but which have undergone alternative RNA splicing. Alternative RNA splicing occurs when a primary RNA transcript undergoes splicing, generally for the removal of introns, which results in the production of more than one mRNA molecule each of that may encode different amino acid sequences. The term splice variant also refers to the proteins encoded by the above cDNA molecules.

"Identity" reflects a relationship between two or more polypeptide sequences or two or more polynucleotide sequences, determined by comparing the sequences. In general, identity refers to an exact nucleotide to nucleotide or amino acid to amino acid correspondence of the two polynucleotide or two polypeptide sequences, respectively, over the length of the sequences being compared.

"% Identity" - For sequences where there is not an exact correspondence, a "% identity" may be determined. In general, the two sequences to be compared are aligned to give a maximum correlation between the sequences. This may include inserting "gaps" in either one or both sequences, to enhance the degree of alignment. A % identity may be determined over the whole length of each of the sequences being compared (so-called global alignment), that is particularly suitable for sequences of the same or very similar length, or over shorter, defined lengths (so-called local alignment), that is more suitable for sequences of unequal length.

"Similarity" is a further, more sophisticated measure of the relationship between two polypeptide sequences. In general, "similarity" means a comparison between the amino acids of two polypeptide chains, on a

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residue by residue basis, taking into account not only exact correspondences between a between pairs of residues, one from each of the sequences being compared (as for identity) but also, where there is not an exact correspondence, whether, on an evolutionary basis, one residue is a likely substitute for the other. This likelihood has an associated "score" from which the "% similarity" of the two sequences can then be determined.

Methods for comparing the identity and similarity of two or more sequences are well known in the art. Thus for instance, programs available in the Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, version 9.1 (Devereux J et al, Nucleic Acids Res, 12, 387-395, 1984, available from Genetics Computer Group, Madison, Wisconsin, USA), for example the programs BESTFIT and GAP, may be used to determine the % identity between two polynucleotides and the % identity and the % similarity between two polypeptide sequences. BESTFIT uses the "local homology" algorithm of Smith and Waterman (J Mol Biol, 147,195-197, 1981, Advances in Applied Mathematics, 2, 482-489, 1981) and finds the best single region of similarity between two sequences. BESTFIT is more suited to comparing two polynucleotide or two polypeptide sequences that are dissimilar in length, the program assuming that the shorter sequence represents a portion of the longer. In comparison, GAP aligns two sequences, finding a "maximum similarity", according to the algorithm of Neddleman and Wunsch (J Mol Biol, 48, 443-453, 1970). GAP is more suited to comparing sequences that are approximately the same length and an alignment is expected over the entire length. Preferably, the parameters "Gap Weight" and "Length Weight" used in each program are 50 and 3, for polynucleotide sequences and 12 and 4 for polypeptide sequences, respectively. Preferably, % identities and similarities are determined when the two sequences being compared are optimally aligned.

Other programs for determining identity and/or similarity between sequences are also known in the art, for instance the BLAST family of programs (Altschul S F et al, J Mol Biol, 215, 403-410, 1990, Altschul S F et al, Nucleic Acids Res., 25:389-3402, 1997, available from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), Bethesda, Maryland, USA and accessible through the home page of the NCBI at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and FASTA (Pearson W R, Methods in

Enzymology, 183, 63-99, 1990; Pearson W R and Lipman D J, Proc Nat Acad Sci USA, 85, 2444-2448, 1988, available as part of the Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package)

5 Preferably, the BLOSUM62 amino acid substitution matrix (Henikoff S and Henikoff J G, Proc Nat. Acad Sci USA, 89, 10915-10919, 1992) is used in polypeptide sequence comparisons including where nucleotide sequences are first translated into amino acid sequences before comparison.

10 Preferably, the program BESTFIT is used to determine the % identity of a query polynucleotide or a polypeptide sequence with respect to a reference polynucleotide or a polypeptide sequence, the query and the reference sequence being optimally aligned and the parameters of the program set at the default value, as hereinbefore described.

15 "Identity Index" is a measure of sequence relatedness which may be used to compare a candidate sequence (polynucleotide or polypeptide) and a reference sequence. Thus, for instance, a candidate polynucleotide sequence having, for example, an Identity Index of 0.95 compared to a reference polynucleotide sequence is identical to the reference sequence except that the candidate polynucleotide sequence
20 may include on average up to five differences per each 100 nucleotides of the reference sequence. Such differences are selected from the group consisting of at least one nucleotide deletion, substitution, including transition and transversion, or insertion. These differences may occur at the 5' or 3' terminal positions of the reference polynucleotide sequence or
25 anywhere between these terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the nucleotides in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. In other words, to obtain a polynucleotide sequence having an Identity Index of 0.95 compared to a reference polynucleotide sequence, an average of up to 5
30 in every 100 of the nucleotides of the in the reference sequence may be deleted, substituted or inserted, or any combination thereof, as hereinbefore described. The same applies *mutatis mutandis* for other values of the Identity Index, for instance 0.96, 0.97, 0.98 and 0.99.

35 Similarly, for a polypeptide, a candidate polypeptide sequence having, for example, an Identity Index of 0.95 compared to a reference

polypeptide sequence is identical to the reference sequence except that the polypeptide sequence may include an average of up to five differences per each 100 amino acids of the reference sequence. Such differences are selected from the group consisting of at least one amino acid deletion, substitution, including conservative and non-conservative substitution, or insertion. These differences may occur at the amino- or carboxy-terminal positions of the reference polypeptide sequence or anywhere between these terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the amino acids in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. In other words, to obtain a polypeptide sequence having an Identity Index of 0.95 compared to a reference polypeptide sequence, an average of up to 5 in every 100 of the amino acids in the reference sequence may be deleted, substituted or inserted, or any combination thereof, as hereinbefore described. The same applies *mutatis mutandis* for other values of the Identity Index, for instance 0.96, 0.97, 0.98 and 0.99.

The relationship between the number of nucleotide or amino acid differences and the Identity Index may be expressed in the following equation:

$$n_a \leq x_a - (x_a \bullet I),$$

in which:

n_a is the number of nucleotide or amino acid differences,

x_a is the total number of nucleotides or amino acids in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, respectively,

I is the Identity Index ,

\bullet is the symbol for the multiplication operator, and

in which any non-integer product of x_a and I is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting it from x_a .

"Homolog" is a generic term used in the art to indicate a polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence possessing a high degree of sequence relatedness to a reference sequence. Such relatedness may be quantified by determining the degree of identity and/or similarity between the two

sequences as hereinbefore defined. Falling within this generic term are the terms "ortholog", and "paralog". "Ortholog" refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide that is the functional equivalent of the polynucleotide or polypeptide in another species. "Paralog" refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide that within the same species which is functionally similar.

"Fusion protein" refers to a protein encoded by two, unrelated, fused genes or fragments thereof. Examples have been disclosed in US 5541087, 5726044. In the case of Fc-ICSR-1, employing an immunoglobulin Fc region as a part of a fusion protein is advantageous for performing the functional expression of Fc-ICSR-1, to improve pharmacokinetic properties of such a fusion protein when used for therapy and to generate a dimeric Fc-ICSR-1. The Fc-ICSR-1 DNA construct comprises in 5' to 3' direction, a secretion cassette, i.e. a signal sequence that triggers export from a mammalian cell, DNA encoding an immunoglobulin Fc region fragment, as a fusion partner, and a DNA encoding Fc-ICSR-1. In some uses it would be desirable to be able to alter the intrinsic functional properties (complement binding, Fc-Receptor binding) by mutating the functional Fc sides while leaving the rest of the fusion protein untouched or delete the Fc part completely after expression.

All publications and references, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety as if each individual publication or reference were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference herein as being fully set forth. Any patent application to which this application claims priority is also incorporated by reference herein in its entirety in the manner described above for publications and references.

Further Examples

Example 1:

Mammalian Cell Expression

The receptors of the present invention are expressed in either human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293) cells or adherent dhfr CHO cells. To maximize receptor expression, typically all 5' and 3' untranslated regions (UTRs) are removed from the receptor cDNA prior to insertion into a pCDN or pCDNA3 vector. The cells are transfected with individual receptor cDNAs by lipofectin and selected in the presence of 400 mg/ml G418. After 3 weeks of selection, individual clones are picked and expanded for further analysis. HEK293 or CHO cells transfected with the vector alone serve as negative controls. To isolate cell lines stably expressing the individual receptors, about 24 clones are typically selected and analyzed by Northern blot analysis. Receptor mRNAs are generally detectable in about 50% of the G418-resistant clones analyzed.

Example 2

Ligand bank for binding and functional assays.

A bank of over 600 putative receptor ligands has been assembled for screening. The bank comprises: transmitters, hormones and chemokines known to act via a human seven transmembrane (7TM) receptor; naturally occurring compounds which may be putative agonists for a human 7TM receptor, non-mammalian, biologically active peptides for which a mammalian counterpart has not yet been identified; and compounds not found in nature, but which activate 7TM receptors with unknown natural ligands. This bank is used to initially screen the receptor for known ligands, using both functional (i.e. calcium, cAMP, microphysiometer, oocyte electrophysiology, etc, see below) as well as binding assays.

Example 3:

Ligand Binding Assays

Ligand binding assays provide a direct method for ascertaining receptor pharmacology and are adaptable to a high throughput format. The purified ligand for a receptor is radiolabeled to high specific activity (50-2000

Ci/mmol) for binding studies. A determination is then made that the process of radiolabeling does not diminish the activity of the ligand towards its receptor. Assay conditions for buffers, ions, pH and other modulators such as nucleotides are optimized to establish a workable signal to noise ratio for both membrane and whole cell receptor sources. For these assays, specific receptor binding is defined as total associated radioactivity minus the radioactivity measured in the presence of an excess of unlabeled competing ligand. Where possible, more than one competing ligand is used to define residual nonspecific binding.

Example 4:

Functional Assay in *Xenopus* Oocytes

Capped RNA transcripts from linearized plasmid templates encoding the receptor cDNAs of the invention are synthesized in vitro with RNA polymerases in accordance with standard procedures. In vitro transcripts are suspended in water at a final concentration of 0.2 mg/ml. Ovarian lobes are removed from adult female toads. Stage V defolliculated oocytes are obtained, and RNA transcripts (10 ng/oocyte) are injected in a 50 nl bolus using a microinjection apparatus. Two electrode voltage clamps are used to measure the currents from individual *Xenopus* oocytes in response to agonist exposure. Recordings are made in Ca^{2+} free Barth's medium at room temperature. The *Xenopus* system can be used to screen known ligands and tissue/cell extracts for activating ligands.

Example 5: Microphysiometric Assays

Activation of a wide variety of secondary messenger systems results in extrusion of small amounts of acid from a cell. The acid formed is largely as a result of the increased metabolic activity required to fuel the intracellular signaling process. The pH changes in the media surrounding the cell are very small but are detectable by the CYTOSENSOR microphysiometer (Molecular Devices Ltd., Menlo Park, CA). The CYTOSENSOR is thus capable of detecting the activation of a receptor

which is coupled to an energy utilizing intracellular signaling pathway such as the G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention.

Example 6:

Extract/Cell Supernatant Screening

A large number of mammalian receptors exist for which there remains, as yet, no cognate activating ligand (agonist). Thus, active ligands for these receptors may not be included within the ligands banks as identified to date. Accordingly, the 7TM receptor of the invention is also functionally screened (using calcium, cAMP, microphysiometer, oocyte electrophysiology, etc., functional screens) against tissue extracts to identify natural ligands. Extracts that produce positive functional responses can be sequentially subfractionated until an activating ligand is isolated identified.

Example 8:

Calcium and cAMP Functional Assays

7TM receptors which are expressed in HEK 293 cells have been shown to be coupled functionally to activation of PLC and calcium mobilization and/or cAMP stimulation or inhibition. Basal calcium levels in the HEK 293 cells in receptor-transfected or vector control cells were observed to be in the normal, 100 nM to 200 nM, range. HEK 293 cells expressing recombinant receptors are loaded with fura 2 and in a single day > 150 selected ligands or tissue/cell extracts are evaluated for agonist induced calcium mobilization. Similarly, HEK 293 cells expressing recombinant receptors are evaluated for the stimulation or inhibition of cAMP production using standard cAMP quantitation assays. Agonists presenting a calcium transient or cAMP fluctuation are tested in vector control cells to determine if the response is unique to the transfected cells expressing receptor.

Tissue distribution

A set of normalised human cDNA was used to amplify a short gene fragment to examine the tissue distribution of ICSR-1. For this purpose the clontech Multiple Tissue cDNA Panels Human I #K1420-1 (lot 020477) and Human II #K1427-1 (lot 9070211) (Clontech Laboratories GmbH, Heidelberg Germany) were used with two ICSR-1 gene-specific primers. With the gene-specific primers KD3 (SEQ ID NO: 3) and KD8 (SEQ ID NO: 4) a 565 bp fragment could be amplified. The PCR conditions were 30 sec at 94 °C, 30 sec at 94°C and 2 min at 68°C for 38 cycles and a final elongation step at 68°C for 5 min using the advantage polymerase mixture purchased from Clontech Laboratories GmbH, Heidelberg Germany (Kit Clontech, No. K1910-1) and according to the human cardiovascular MTC panel Clontech manual (No. 1427-1).

The 565 bp fragment has been analysed on an agarose gel, visualized with ethidium bormide. ICSR-1 has been detected in a multiple tissue panel specifically in heart tissue Figure 1 A. A more detailed investigation indicated that ICSR-1 is expressed in the adult as well as in the fetal heart. Within the heart it could be specifically detected in ventricle derived tissues (Figure 1 B).

Claims

1. An isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:
 - (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising thesequence
of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - 5 (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least
95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide
sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
 - 10 (e) fragments and variants of such polypeptides in (a) to (d).
2. The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the polypeptide
sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 15 3. The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 which is the polypeptide
sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. An isolated polynucleotide selected from one of the groups consisting of:
 - (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at
least 95% identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - 20 (b) an isolated polynucleotide having at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide of
SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a
polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of
SEQ ID NO:2;
 - 25 (d) an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence encoding a
polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of
SEQ ID NO:2;

(e) an isolated polynucleotide with a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 nucleotides obtained by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof having at least 15 nucleotides;

5 (f) a polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of a polynucleotide of (a) to (e);

or a polynucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide

and polynucleotides that are variants and fragments of the above mentioned polynucleotides or that are complementary to above mentioned polynucleotides, over the entire length thereof.

10

5. An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 4 selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) the isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;

15 (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(d) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

20 6. An expression system comprising a polynucleotide capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1 when said expression vector is present in a compatible host cell.

7. A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6 or a membrane thereof expressing the polypeptide of claim 1.

25

8. A process for producing a polypeptide of claim 1 comprising the step of culturing a host cell as defined in claim 7 under conditions sufficient for the

production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

9. A fusion protein consisting of the Immunoglobulin Fc-region and any one
5 polypeptide of claim 1.

10. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3.

11. A method for screening to identify compounds that stimulate or inhibit the function or level of the polypeptide of claim 1 comprising a method selected from the group consisting of:

10 (a) measuring or, detecting, quantitatively or qualitatively, the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound;

15 (b) measuring the competition of binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof in the presence of a labeled competitor;

(c) testing whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells or cell membranes expressing the polypeptide;

20 (d) mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of claim 1, to form a mixture, measuring activity of the polypeptide in the mixture, and comparing the activity of the mixture to a control mixture which contains no candidate compound; or

25 (e) detecting the effect of a candidate compound on the production of mRNA encoding said polypeptide or said polypeptide in cells, using for instance, an ELISA assay, and

(f) producing said compound according to biotechnological or chemical standard techniques.

Multiple Tissue cDNA PCR

Figure 1 A

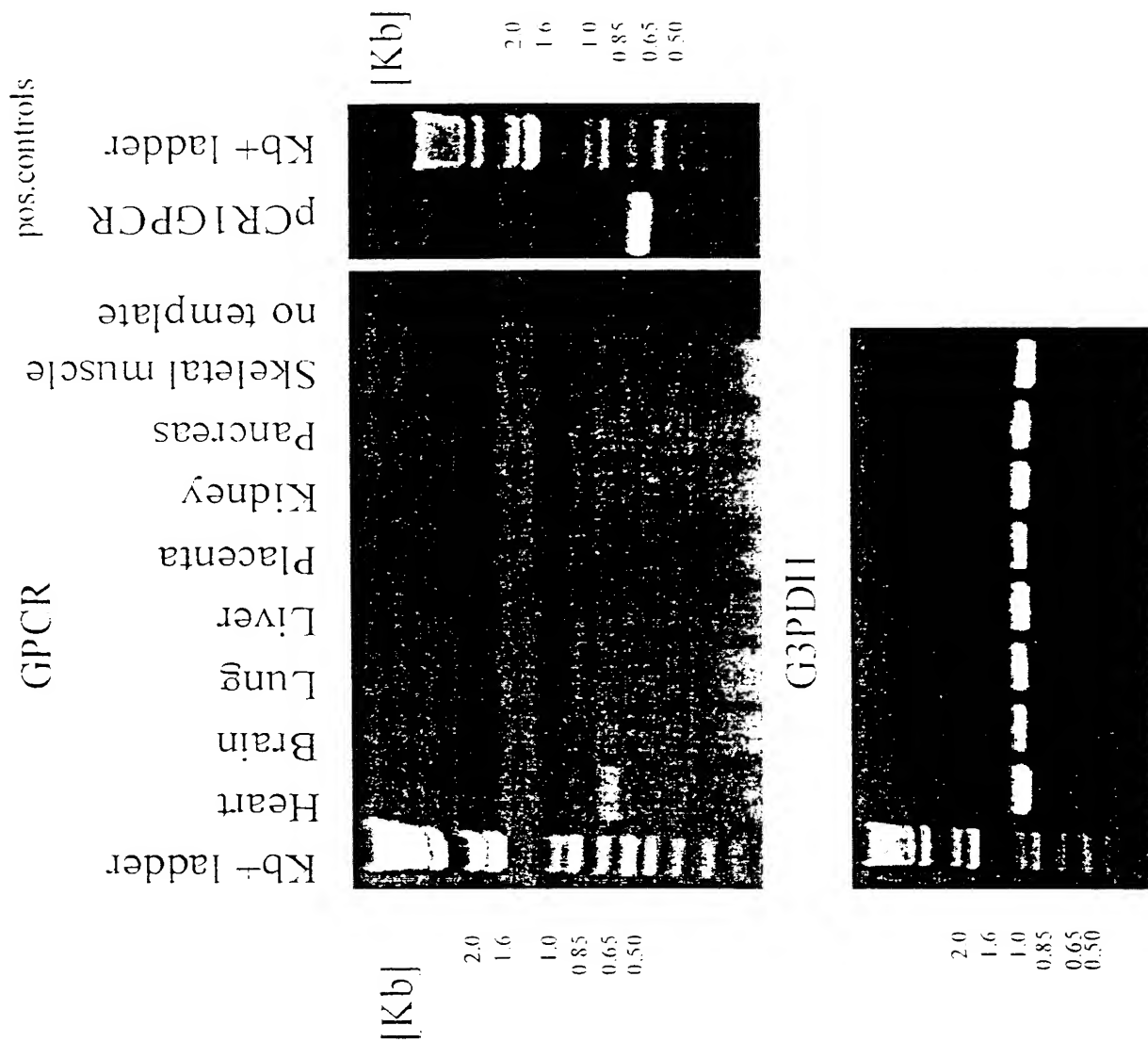
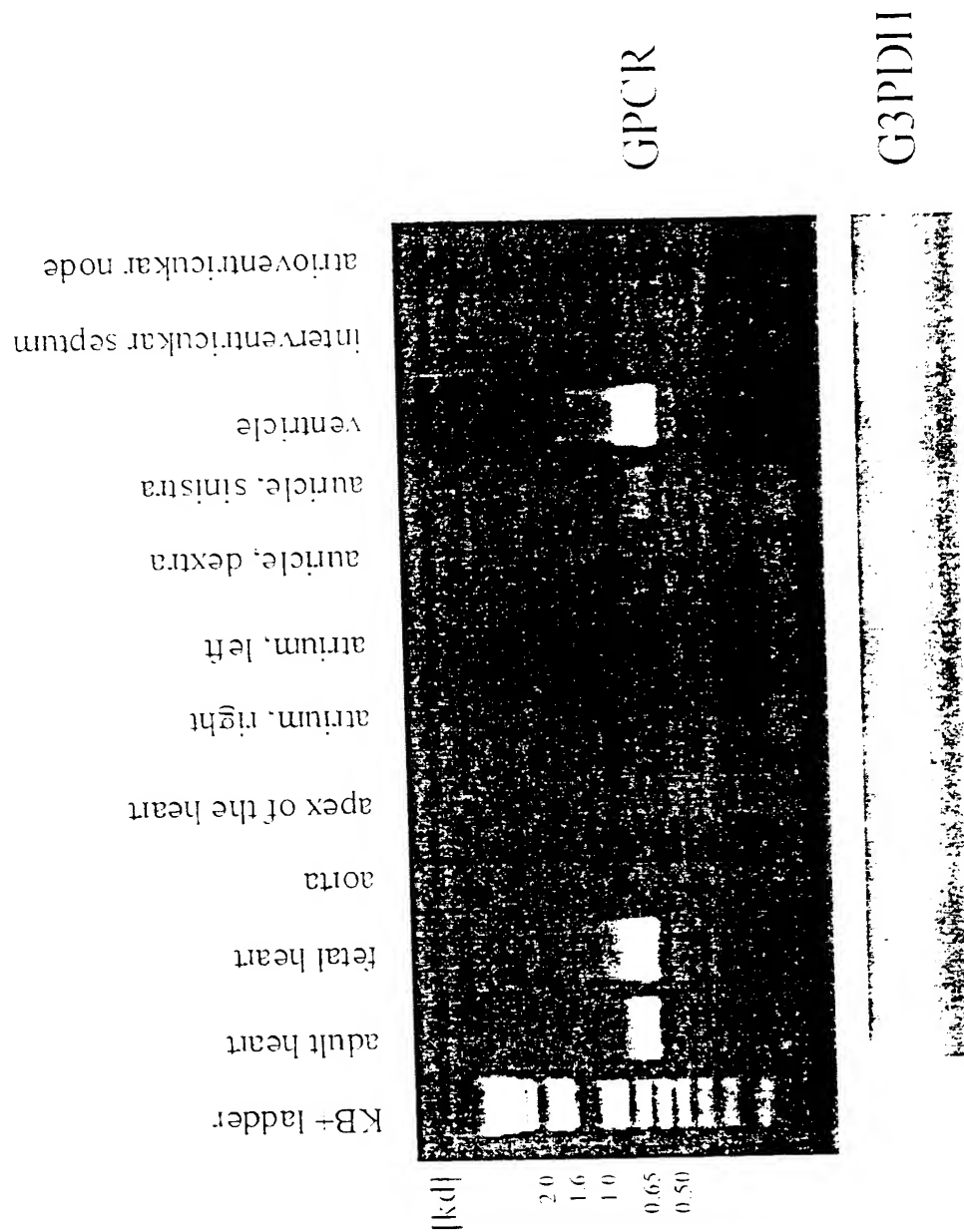


Figure 1 B

Multiple Tissue Heart cDNA PCR



SEQUENCE LISTING

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5 <120> New GPC receptor (ICSR-1)

<130> ICSR-1KDWS

<140>

10 <141>

<160> 4

<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.1

15

<210> 1

<211> 1119

<212> DNA

<213> Homo sapiens

20

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1)..(1119)

25

<400> 1

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Met	Leu	Ala	Asn	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Asn	Ser	Ser	Val	Leu	Pro	Cys	Pro	
1				5					10					15		

30

gac	tac	cga	cct	acc	cac	cgc	ctg	cac	ttg	gtg	gtc	tac	agc	ttg	gtg	96
Asp	Tyr	Arg	Pro	Thr	His	Arg	Leu	His	Leu	Val	Val	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Val	
			20					25					30			

35

ctg	gct	gcc	ggg	ctc	ccc	ctc	aac	gcg	cta	gcc	ctc	tgg	gtc	ttc	ctg	144
Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Leu	Pro	Leu	Asn	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	Trp	Val	Phe	Leu	
		35					40					45				

40

cgc	gcg	ctg	cgc	gtg	cac	tcg	gtg	gtg	agc	gtg	tac	atg	tgt	aac	ctg	192
Arg	Ala	Leu	Arg	Val	His	Ser	Val	Val	Ser	Val	Tyr	Met	Cys	Asn	Leu	
	50					55					60					

45

gcg	gcc	agc	gac	ctg	ctc	ttc	acc	ctc	tgc	ctg	ccc	gtt	cgt	ctc	tcc	240
Ala	Ala	Ser	Asp	Leu	Leu	Phe	Thr	Leu	Ser	Leu	Pro	Val	Arg	Leu	Ser	
65					70				75					80		

50

tac	tac	gca	ctg	cac	cac	tgg	ccc	ttc	ccc	gac	ctc	ctg	tgc	cag	acg	288
Tyr	Tyr	Ala	Leu	His	His	Trp	Pro	Phe	Pro	Asp	Leu	Leu	Cys	Gln	Thr	
			85				90						95			

50

acg	ggc	gcc	atc	ttc	cag	atg	aac	atg	tac	ggc	agc	tgc	atc	ttc	ctg	336
Thr	Gly	Ala	Ile	Phe	Gln	Met	Asn	Met	Tyr	Gly	Ser	Cys	Ile	Phe	Leu	
			100					105					110			

55

atg	ctc	atc	aac	gtg	gac	cgc	tac	gcc	gcc	atc	gtg	cac	ccg	ctg	cga	384
Met	Leu	Ile	Asn	Val	Asp	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Ile	Val	His	Pro	Leu	Arg	
		115					120					125				

60

ctg	cgc	cac	ctg	cgg	cgg	ccc	cgc	gtg	gcg	cgg	ctg	ctc	tgc	ctg	ggc	432
Leu	Arg	His	Leu	Arg	Arg	Pro	Arg	Val	Ala	Arg	Leu	Leu	Cys	Leu	Gly	
		130				135					140					

	gtg tgg gcg ctc atc ctg gtg ttt gcc gtg ccc gcc gcc cgc gtg cac	480
	Val Trp Ala Leu Ile Leu Val Phe Ala Val Pro Ala Ala Arg Val His	
	145 150 155 160	
5	agg ccc tcg cgt tgc cgc tac cgg gac ctc gag gtg cgc cta tgc ttc	528
	Arg Pro Ser Arg Cys Arg Tyr Arg Asp Leu Glu Val Arg Leu Cys Phe	
	165 170 175	
10	gag agc ttc agc gac gag ctg tgg aaa gcc agg ctg ctg ccc ctc gtg	576
	Glu Ser Phe Ser Asp Glu Leu Trp Lys Gly Arg Leu Leu Pro Leu Val	
	180 185 190	
15	ctg ctg gcc gag gcg ctg gcc ttc ctg ctg ccc ctg gcg gcg gtg gtc	624
	Leu Leu Ala Glu Ala Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Pro Leu Ala Ala Val Val	
	195 200 205	
20	tac tcg tcg ggc cga gtc ttc tgg acg ctg gcg cgc ccc gac gcc acg	672
	Tyr Ser Ser Gly Arg Val Phe Trp Thr Leu Ala Arg Pro Asp Ala Thr	
	210 215 220	
25	cag agc cag cgg cgg cgg aag acc gtg cgc ctc ctg ctg gct aac ctc	720
	Gln Ser Gln Arg Arg Arg Lys Thr Val Arg Leu Leu Leu Ala Asn Leu	
	225 230 235 240	
30	gtc atc ttc ctg ctg tgc ttc gtg ccc tac aac agc acg ctg gcg gtc	768
	Val Ile Phe Leu Leu Cys Phe Val Pro Tyr Asn Ser Thr Leu Ala Val	
	245 250 255	
35	tac ggg ctg ctg cgg agc aag ctg gtg gcg gcc agc gtg cct gcc cgc	816
	Tyr Gly Leu Leu Arg Ser Lys Leu Val Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Ala Arg	
	260 265 270	
40	gat cgc gtg cgc ggg gtg ctg atg gtg atg gtg ctg ctg gcc gcc gcc	864
	Asp Arg Val Arg Gly Val Leu Met Val Met Val Leu Leu Ala Gly Ala	
	275 280 285	
45	aac tgc gtg ctg gac ccg ctg gtg tac tac ttt agc gcc gag ggc ttc	912
	Asn Cys Val Leu Asp Pro Leu Val Tyr Tyr Phe Ser Ala Glu Gly Phe	
	290 295 300	
50	cgc aac acc ctg cgc gcc ctg gcc act ccg cac cgg gcc agg acc tcg	960
	Arg Asn Thr Leu Arg Gly Leu Gly Thr Pro His Arg Ala Arg Thr Ser	
	305 310 315 320	
55	gcc acc aac ggg acg cgg ggg gcg ctc gcg caa tcc gaa agg tcc gcc	1008
	Ala Thr Asn Gly Thr Arg Ala Ala Leu Ala Gln Ser Glu Arg Ser Ala	
	325 330 335	
60	gtc acc acc gac gcc acc agg ccg gat gcc gcc agt cag ggg ctg ctc	1056
	Val Thr Thr Asp Ala Thr Arg Pro Asp Ala Ala Ser Gln Gly Leu Leu	
	340 345 350	
65	cga ccc tcc gac tcc cac tct ctg tct tcc ttc aca cag tgt ccc cag	1104
	Arg Pro Ser Asp Ser His Ser Leu Ser Ser Phe Thr Gln Cys Pro Gln	
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70	gat tcc gcc ctc tga	1119
	Asp Ser Ala Leu	
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 10 Asp Tyr Arg Pro Thr His Arg Leu His Leu Val Val Tyr Ser Leu Val
 20 25 30
 Leu Ala Ala Gly Leu Pro Leu Asn Ala Leu Ala Leu Trp Val Phe Leu
 35 40 45
 Arg Ala Leu Arg Val His Ser Val Val Ser Val Tyr Met Cys Asn Leu
 50 55 60
 15 Ala Ala Ser Asp Leu Leu Phe Thr Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Arg Leu Ser
 65 70 75 80
 Tyr Tyr Ala Leu His His Trp Pro Phe Pro Asp Leu Leu Cys Gln Thr
 85 90 95
 20 Thr Gly Ala Ile Phe Gln Met Asn Met Tyr Gly Ser Cys Ile Phe Leu
 100 105 110
 Met Leu Ile Asn Val Asp Arg Tyr Ala Ala Ile Val His Pro Leu Arg
 115 120 125
 Leu Arg His Leu Arg Arg Pro Arg Val Ala Arg Leu Cys Leu Gly
 130 135 140
 25 Val Trp Ala Leu Ile Leu Val Phe Ala Val Pro Ala Ala Arg Val His
 145 150 155 160
 Arg Pro Ser Arg Cys Arg Tyr Arg Asp Leu Glu Val Arg Leu Cys Phe
 165 170 175
 30 Glu Ser Phe Ser Asp Glu Leu Trp Lys Gly Arg Leu Leu Pro Leu Val
 180 185 190
 Leu Leu Ala Glu Ala Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Pro Leu Ala Ala Val Val
 195 200 205
 Tyr Ser Ser Gly Arg Val Phe Trp Thr Leu Ala Arg Pro Asp Ala Thr
 210 215 220
 35 Gln Ser Gln Arg Arg Arg Lys Thr Val Arg Leu Leu Leu Ala Asn Leu
 225 230 235 240
 Val Ile Phe Leu Leu Cys Phe Val Pro Tyr Asn Ser Thr Leu Ala Val
 245 250 255
 40 Tyr Gly Leu Leu Arg Ser Lys Leu Val Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Ala Arg
 260 265 270
 Asp Arg Val Arg Gly Val Leu Met Val Met Val Leu Leu Ala Gly Ala
 275 280 285
 Asn Cys Val Leu Asp Pro Leu Val Tyr Tyr Phe Ser Ala Glu Gly Phe
 290 295 300
 45 Arg Asn Thr Leu Arg Gly Leu Gly Thr Pro His Arg Ala Arg Thr Ser
 305 310 315 320
 Ala Thr Asn Gly Thr Arg Ala Ala Leu Ala Gln Ser Glu Arg Ser Ala
 325 330 335
 50 Val Thr Thr Asp Ala Thr Arg Pro Asp Ala Ala Ser Gln Gly Leu Leu
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